

New-York Daily Tribune

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1865.

To Correspondents.
No notice can be taken of Anonymous Communications. Whatever is intended for publication must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee for its good faith. All business letters for this office should be addressed to "The Tribune," New York. We cannot undertake to return rejected Communications.

Terms of the Tribune.
DAILY TRIBUNE.
Mail subscribers, \$10.00
1 copy, 1 year—312 numbers, \$10.00
SEMI-WEEKLY TRIBUNE.
1 copy, 1 year—104 numbers, \$4.00
2 copies, do., 7.00
5 copies, or over, for each copy, 3.00
WEEKLY TRIBUNE.
1 copy, 1 year—52 numbers, \$2.50
Clubs of five or over, \$2 per copy, and an extra copy for every Club of ten.
Address THE TRIBUNE, New York.

The Union Dead at Salisbury.
THE SEMI-WEEKLY TRIBUNE of To-day contains a long list of prisoners who died at Salisbury, N. C., from Oct. 18 to Dec. 18, 1864, brought by our Correspondent, Mr. Richardson, who recently escaped from the prison at that place. This list will be wanted by the friends both of the dead and the living at Salisbury. Price, in wrappers, ready for mailing, five cents.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

THE WAR.

The House yesterday unanimously passed a bill giving a gratuity of \$300 a year to each of the five surviving revolutionary pensions in addition to the pension of \$100 which they now receive. In January, 1864, there were only twelve remaining, seven of whom have since died. The names of the only survivors are as follows: Lemuel Cook, enlisted in Hatfield, Mass., 26 years of age, now residing at Clarendon, Orleans Co., N. Y.; Samuel Downey, enlisted in Carroll Co., N. H., 65 years of age, now living at Edenburg, Saratoga Co., N. Y.; William Hatches, enlisted in Newcastles, Me., 100 years of age, residing at Penobscot, Me.; Alexander Maroney, enlisted at Lake George, N. Y., as a drummer boy, 94 years of age, residing at Yates, Orleans Co., N. Y.; James Beardsley, a substitute for a drafted man in Southampton Co., Va., living in Missouri, in his 104th year.

About a week since, Dr. J. S. Jeffries, a Government detective, doing duty under orders from post headquarters at Cincinnati, left there for Lexington, Ky., from which place he was to make a trip into Bourbon County, for the purpose of investigating the case of some guerrillas who were supposed to have their headquarters at the house of a woman in that vicinity. Jeffries took with him a Rebel deserter, whose knowledge of the country and of the men with whom he was to deal was to be brought to his aid in the affair. Treacherous, however, that instead of succeeding in his work, the unfortunate detective was betrayed into the hands of the guerrillas, who murdered him, took from him his gold watch, diamond ring, pin and revolver, and left his body in the woods, where it was found last Saturday.

There is a prospect that the quota of this city under the last call for troops will be materially reduced. Messrs. Bell and Andrews of the State Senate have induced the President to approve a reduction or rather suspension of twenty-five per cent on the State quota, which would make a difference of 5,250 in this city alone. Messrs. Hunt and Tweed, Supervisors, telegraph a confirmation of this, saying that they are sanguine of effecting a material reduction.

NEWS FROM EUROPE.

The steamship Africa from Liverpool Jan. 21, via Queenstown Jan. 22, arrived at Halifax yesterday, bringing two days later news from Europe.

The report that British troops were embarking for Canada, is officially contradicted by *The Globe*. The commander of the Peruvian war vessel *Union*, was rearrested at P. month, being charged with a new violation of the Foreign Enlistment Act. His case was tried on Jan. 21, but dismissed from insufficient evidence. The commander of the Rebel steamer *Sea King* (subsequently named *Shenandoah*) has again been before a magistrate, charged with enlisting English seamen. He was admitted to bail.

The shipping of the Atlantic Cable commenced on the 19th of January, and will continue without interruption until the end of May, when all the cable will be coiled on board of the *Great Eastern*. The *London Times* feels confident that the enterprise will this time be successful.

Mr. Proudhon, the famous communist writer of France, is dead.

It is announced that Prince Napoleon has been designated by the Emperor Louis Napoleon, with the consent of the Empress, to be Regent of France, in case the Emperor should die during the minority of the Prince Imperial.

GENERAL NEWS.

The Treasury Department has sent to Representative Washburne, Chairman of the Committee on Commerce, the draft of a bill amendatory of the law relative to the appraisers in the New-York Custom House. It provides for the appointment, by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate, of an appraiser and nine assistant appraisers, one of which shall not be in lieu of the Special Examiner of Drugs and Medicines, in place of the clerks now employed. The Secretary of the Treasury may appoint examiners of the appraiser as may be necessary and also the clerks, samplers and messengers, and shall limit and fix their number and compensation, and all are forbidden to act as agents or principals in any commercial or mercantile business. The salary of the appraiser is fixed at \$5,000, and the assistants at \$3,500 each.

The Chamber of Commerce of this City yesterday reaffirmed their opinions in favor of taxing sales of merchandise, if taxation must be increased; in favor of the ship-canal around the Falls of Niagara, and in favor of Government assistance to a line of steamers from California to China. The Savannah Relief Committee reported that \$35,681.60 had been raised. The Keeney subscription has reached \$20,000. Mr. John Austin Stevens presided, on behalf of certain gentlemen, a portrait of John A. Slop, one of the founders and an early President of the Chamber of Commerce.

There was a regular meeting of the Chamber of Commerce yesterday afternoon, at 1 o'clock. The reports of the various Committees were considered and mostly accepted, but the report on the Reciprocity Treaty was laid over until the next meeting. Several new members were elected, and an elegant portrait of John A. Slop, the first President of the Chamber, was unveiled by the Secretary of the Board, Mr. John A. Stevens, who read a letter presenting the picture, and giving an interesting sketch of the character and career of the subject.

The steamship *Rebecca Clyde*, Capt. Willetts, which left here Jan. 14, with a cargo of provisions subscribed by the citizens of New-York for the relief of the Savannah sufferers, arrived at this port last night from that city, bringing a full cargo of cotton consigned to Mr. Simon Draper, Collector of this port. She has also several passengers, among whom are Mr. Grinnell, Mr. Low, Mr. Chittenden, Mr. Fish and several other prominent gentlemen of this city.

The Aldermen held no meeting yesterday, there not being a quorum in attendance. The Council adopted an ordinance prohibiting the erection of gates or booths for procuring recruits which may be detrimental to the State.

John Bond, a sailor, committed suicide yesterday morning, by jumping from the rear window of his room in the fourth-story of the Sailors' Home in Cherry-st., while laboring under delirium tremens.

Robert A. West, for many years editor of *The Commercial Advertiser* in this city, and recently one of the editors of *The Chronicle* at Washington, died in the latter city on Wednesday.

George White, a convict, on Wednesday night hung himself on the Blackwell's Island steamboat, lying at the foot of Twenty-sixth-st., East River.

A patent-leather manufactory, a rolling-mill and an oil refinery in Pittsburgh were burned yesterday morning; loss \$50,000.

Henry B. Funk, an old citizen of Cincinnati, widely known as a philanthropist, died a few days ago. A large tobacco warehouse in Chicago was burned on Wednesday night, loss about \$240,000.

A large paper mill belonging to Eliza Smith, at Lee, Massachusetts, was burned yesterday.

Gold has been scarce for delivery all day, and great efforts were made to keep prices firm by complying with slow deliveries. The peace rumors have caused the market to be largely overvalued, and a good deal of the present strength is caused by purchases to cover small contracts. The opening rate was 204, the lowest price 203, and the closing 204. Government stocks are firm and in demand upon European orders, as well as for investment at home. The last English quotation is 49 3/4. Railroad shares are dull, and no disposition is shown to buy for the advance. Money is very easy, and at 6 1/2 per cent stock-brokers are over supplied.

Last Evening—Stocks and Gold were firm. Gold sold after the call as high as 204 1/2; at the close of the report it stood at 204 1/2.

Illinois has the honor of being the first State to ratify the Constitutional Amendment. Both branches of her Legislature did it on the 1st inst.—the Democrats making no fight against it, and some of them voting for it.

Rhode Island followed yesterday. As the vote in Assembly stood 62 to 4, a majority of the Democrats must have favored it. The Assembly ratified on the 1st, and the Senate concurred on the 2d.

Maryland was probably the first to ratify in the popular branch; but the Senate (which represents not population, but Counties, and is Democratic—13 to 11) had not concurred at the date of our last advices.

New-York ratified yesterday in Senate by a party vote. The Assembly is expected to concur to-day.

The statement in another column, by our correspondent, Mr. A. D. Richardson, who has recently escaped from Salisbury, N. C., need not be commended to the attention of our readers. The long experience of Mr. Richardson in these Southern places of torment, his powers of observation, his facility of description, and his high character as a truthful and candid man, render his testimony peculiarly valuable. No one can read it and not believe that the terrible suffering inflicted by the Rebels upon the thousands who have died, or are now lingering in Southern prisons, has been aggravated by a cruel and needless neglect on the part of some of the officials of our own Government. There must be a remedy found somewhere, or the people will demand to know why not.

THE PROSPECT OF PEACE.

The fact that Gov. Seward left Washington express on Wednesday avowedly to meet the Rebel Peace envoys was yesterday clothed with additional gravity by advices that the President of the United States had left Washington on very short notice on the same errand. Whether the meeting between these high officials and the eminent Confederates who have come within our lines is held at Fortress Monroe or elsewhere, will doubtless be set forth in dispatches herewith printed, though not at hand as we write.

If there be any who imagine that the President and Secretary of State on our side and Messrs. A. H. Stephens & Co. on that of the Confederates are merely trying to overreach or outwit each other, in tossing back and forth the responsibility of further carnage, we envy neither his head nor his heart. We know that this Peace movement originated in an earnest, anxious desire for Peace, on a basis just in itself and honorable to all concerned, and we have no doubt that it is prosecuted in a kindred spirit.

Unquestionably, there are obstacles to be encountered, difficulties to be overcome; but we trust none of these will be found insuperable. If, as we now infer, Gov. Seward, after a first informal conference with the Confederate chiefs, has telegraphed to the President to join him without delay, then our hopes of an early and happy issue far outweigh our apprehensions. But we will not speculate, since a few days, if not hours, must bring developments that will render speculation superfluous.

The following leader in Col. Forney's Washington *Morning Chronicle* of yesterday strikes us as very significant. It was probably written after an interview with the President:

"CONFEDERATE" COMMISSIONERS.

There is so much discussion about the probabilities of peace between the Government of the United States and the disappointed leaders who have compelled a large portion of our people to take arms against it, that we should be indifferent to our own frequent, early, and recent expressions on the subject, if we did not take some little part in the debate. The subject itself is so vast that it taxes the greatest and appalls the smallest minds. Transcending ordinary topics and evanescent policies, it demands the attention of every one who thinks, or talks, or writes upon it. We can best understand how they feel who have suffered the fearful punishment of rebellion against the institutions of our common fathers, by remembering how much we commiserated them, even with the sense of their dreadful crime before our eyes. Pride, passion, and a haughty sense of refusing to repent, have been the triple cause of hatred among the families of men as among the families of nations.

But we cannot, before God we dare not, forget that if it is hard to say I am penitent, it is easy to say I FORGIVE. How mysterious the philosophy of the human heart! How full of pathos and instruction the Prodigal Son! Who ever read the Vicar of Wakefield without shedding a tear, unless, indeed, he attempted to outrage nature by showing that he had no feeling? We know not if there are commissioners from the seceded or revolted States in this same city of Washington, but we hope they are on the ground. The more distinguished and authoritative they are, the more they should be welcomed. The terms of reunion are few and briefly told. The revolted States are not sought to be returned as captives, or as inferiors, or as degraded members of the National family. There is only one condition of restoration. It is not the Abolition of Slavery. To that, both sides have at last agreed; the one because it desired, the other because it could not help it. THAT CONDITION IS, THAT THE UNION SHALL BE RESTORED.

—Contrast with the above the following from *The Daily News*, the Rebel organ in our city, edited by a Democratic Member of the present Congress, who has been clamoring for Peace so long as Peace was impossible, yet who now, when Peace seems to be attainable, does his utmost to defeat it, after this fashion:

"Our nature is not one that would willingly blast hope. Our soul craves for peace; but must not indulge in the weakness of ignoring the difficulties in the path of that blessed vision. The South will, beyond all question, reject any proposition that does not recognize the independence of the States of the Confederacy. The question of peace depends, therefore, in our conviction, on the courage and capacity of Mr. Lincoln—depends on whether or not, breaking away from the toils of a policy of disunion, he will meet the facts of his position like a statesman."

"The Emperor of the French is, we have used repeatedly, committed to the independence of the South by his initiation of the Empire of Mexico. That overt act supplies an conclusive, though not a sufficient, ground for the present position of the Confederacy. As that of the newly created Vice-Royalty of Dr. Gwin. And the imperial gold-hunter makes, still further, the announcement that his purposes on this continent are not to be limited to the conquest of the South, but to the conquest of the world. He has issued orders for the completion, by Spring, of all his iron-clad ships of war. Recognition of the Confederacy comes from Europe in deepening whispers, and is confirmed by the drilling of troops in the camps of the Crimea and by the riveting of ships in the dockyards of France."

"England and France will recognize the Confederate Government within a few months. Great Britain will stand prepared for any consequences of that course of her right, but will decline, we presume, any sort of armed intervention. She will cover the rear of France by remaining with arms in her hands, watching Russia, Louis Napoleon, who, in order to hold his dominions in Mexico, is constrained to make good the full force of the South is, we can detect in almost the full force of positive knowledge, about to do so with men and ships. The sword of France is about to settle the question of 'whipping back the South.' However men may have differed previously as to the practicability of that bloody work, it is now clear that the party that with France in the lists, it has become beyond all doubt impossible."

"Will Mr. Lincoln accept the fact that his reconstruction of the Union is impossible? Will he concede that the South is in the immediate future by the full strength of the wealth, ships and armies of France? We must conclude that he possesses the capacity and courage to do both of these, if he is deterred from giving to the untold legions of the South the aid of the United States, that that remnant of the brotherhood of the sections, their common Americanism."

—If this is not calculated and intended to defeat Peace, by telling the Confederates that it would be cowardly on their part to submit to the authority of the Union—that they have to wait but a few weeks and England as well as France will be fighting their battles—then we do not comprehend it. Its spirit is treason; its purpose to incite more fraternal bloodshed in behalf of the ruined, hopeless cause of Slavery and Disunion. It will be repudiated by an indignant people.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT—WILL IT PREVAIL?

The gravest, and in our view the most beneficent measure ever adopted by Congress is that which initiates an Amendment to the Federal Constitution prescribing that, from and after the hour of its due ratification, no human being shall ever be enslaved or held in Slavery in any part of the United States, except as a punishment for crime by him personally committed. At no time prior to the battle of Run Run did we hope to see our Constitution thus amended; and even now there are those who say, "This Amendment is a mere 'Pope's bull' against the comet"—it can never be ratified. We believe these are in error, and proceed to give our reasons for this conviction:

The Constitutional provisions governing this subject are as follows:

ART. V.—1. The Congress, whenever two-thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution; or, on the application of the Legislatures of two-thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing amendments, which in either case, shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three-fourths of the several States, or by Conventions in three-fourths thereof, or by the ratification of the States in three-fourths of the whole number, provided that no amendment may be proposed which shall in any manner affect the first and fourth clauses in the ninth section of the first article; and that no State, without its consent, shall be deprived of its equal suffrage in the Senate.

The two clauses indicated above are as follows:

1. The migration or importation of such persons as any of the States now existing shall think proper to admit, shall not be prohibited by Congress prior to the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty; but a tax or duty may be imposed on such importation not exceeding ten dollars for each person.

2. No taxation or other direct tax shall be laid, until 1808, on the basis of the census or enumeration herein before directed to be taken.

—It will be seen that neither of these clauses at all qualify or affect the power to amend as exercised in this case, and that—Congress having initiated the Amendment in strict conformity to the Constitution—it needs but to be ratified by "the Legislatures of three-fourths of the States" to render it a part of the Constitution. Can that assent be had?

—No limitation of time, be it observed, is even suggested. Congress having done its part, the ratification of one State per annum until the requisite number shall have been obtained would satisfy the requirement. Nay: though twenty States were now to reject the Amendment, the future Legislatures of those very States might ratify it, and their ratification would be valid. Only let the Amendment stand unrepealed by Congress, and "the Legislatures of three-fourths of the States" might ratify it half a century hence, though every State had previously refused to do so. Whenever the ratification of "the Legislatures of three-fourths of the States" shall have been accorded, it will have become a part of the fundamental law of the land.

We have at present thirty-six States, whereof twenty-seven must ratify to give effect to this Amendment. Twenty-two will, beyond all reasonable doubt, do so within the present year. If (as is asserted) Senator Guthrie of Kentucky wrote to Washington to urge its passage, we may confidently add Kentucky to the number. Tennessee, Arkansas and Louisiana will each and all, through their loyal Legislatures, doubtless make haste to do likewise. Here, then, are the number required, lacking one, without a vote from the States that are now predominantly in disloyal hands. That we shall, unless our arms should meet with unforeseen disasters, soon add to their number, is scarcely disputable. We presume no well-informed Confederate doubts that, were Gen. Sherman at Raleigh to-day, North Carolina would be palpably a Union and an anti-Slavery State within a month. Apart, then, from all hopes based on a general pacifi-

cation, we hope to see the Amendment ratified, and in operation before the close of 1866.

GNASHING OF TEETH.

The Patriot and Union (Democratic organ at Harrisburg, Pa.) has a characteristic editorial on the recent vote of two Democratic Representatives from that State for the Constitutional Amendment. We copy it as a political curiosity, trusting that its author will live to be heartily ashamed of it. It is as follows:

CONTUMACIOUS RECKLESSNESS.
In the proceedings of the United States House of Representatives yesterday, we find the following brief report—The Slavery Constitutional Amendment being under discussion:

"Mr. McAllister (Pa., Democrat) said on a former occasion he would not vote for the Amendment, and that he would not vote for it, and declare eternal war against the enemies of the country."

"Mr. Croft (Pa.) spoke in favor of the amendment, and argued the power of Congress. He gave his vote as a Democrat, and would consistently stand by the organization of his party."

We are astounded at this—not so much, however, in the case of Archibald McAllister as in that of Alexander H. Croft. The former having been from the water consistency politically, and who has so long seemed between two opinions that the poor creature probably scarcely knows what he is, where he came from, or what he is at present doing. And yet, we find him to be contumacious in the political defection of Croft, either; more especially as several days ago it was intimated in our Washington correspondence that the stool-pigeon was wavering on his perch, ready to quit his seat at any moment, and to take the side of the Union. The moment of Croft's defection, the Democratic traitor, thus betrayed, and the public in general will need but little explanation of Croft's treason. His principles, upon which he was elevated, beyond his party, he is involved in a contest for a second term in the seat which he has disgraced, and it depends upon the shoddy membership whether he shall be successful. It seems to us almost to show that, to secure another seat in Congress, he has sold himself and betrayed his party and its principles. To help his cause in this contest we have devoted time and space in his service. We hope God and Democracy will forgive us for that mistake; but, at least, let him be true to his principles. We are not in the least disposed to let him go, but we are not disposed to let him stay in the party that now owns him might have settled the dispute between its comorants and stool-pigeons for all we should have cared.

We have not yet seen a report of Croft's "speech" on this occasion. When we do, we shall have more to say on the subject. It will be seen that "he gave his vote as a Democrat, and would consistently stand by the organization." This has been the case of every scoundrel who has sold himself to shoddy since the war commenced. It is not only a disgrace to the party, but it is a disgrace to the country. We are not disposed to let him go, but we are not disposed to let him stay in the party that now owns him might have settled the dispute between its comorants and stool-pigeons for all we should have cared.

SHERMAN'S CAMPAIGN.

What is called the "latest intelligence" from Gen. Sherman's army represents his forces at less than forty miles from Charleston. The date is the 25th of January. But the statement is so vague that we may infer the advanced corps of the army have made no movement since the occupation of the line of the Salkehatchie, a few miles beyond Pocotaligo Bridge. Our letters of some days since show that the left wing of Sherman's army, which left Savannah about the 20th, had been delayed in its advance by the inundation of the country, and was therefore unable to get forward. It is, therefore, very unlikely that the right wing which was already so far to the north as not to be in communication with its supports, should have moved decisively in any direction, or should have gone far from its base on Broad River. Late Rebel reports speak of three columns of Sherman's army as in motion, whereof the main was marching straight upon Charleston. But it is quite clear no such movement can yet be making. The inability of Sherman to move by land in the neighborhood of the coast must stop all extended operations to the North. His army may move, when it moves, in two or three columns, but they will surely be cooperating columns. Their direction, moreover, may be guessed at by the Rebels, but will hardly be indicated in advance by any crude efforts toward either of the points Sherman may be supposed to intend to approach.

Therefore, the present statement about an advance to within forty miles of Charleston means little or nothing. The Salkehatchie River, where it would naturally be struck by the head of Howard's column, is but little over fifty miles from Charleston. On or near that stream Sherman's outposts are undoubtedly to be found. The distance is about twelve miles distant, and is understood to afford a line capable of defense for some distance from the coast. The fact that Sherman is not even reported to have crossed that river is conclusive that he has not attempted any further advance. When he is over the still has the Ashepoo and Edisto Rivers to cross before approaching Charleston. The country is a swamp. The roads are causeways. Were there troops enough to make a serious stand against Sherman, they could make his campaign through these districts a difficult one. It is probable, however, that no real opposition is to be attempted. Sherman's force is too overwhelming. All his columns cannot be met. If he moves upon Branchville he gets upon high land and out of the swamps, and may fight a battle anywhere on equal terms with any army he can find. Nor is there any reason to think a column moving in that direction could be prevented from extricating itself out of the mire of the coast swamps. Sherman, therefore, being strong enough to divide his army, and the Rebels not being strong enough to meet him at every point, he will get steadily forward, extending now one wing and now the other, and so approach Branchville and Charleston, and perhaps even Augusta, with equal steps, and insurmountable purpose.

People who are getting impatient at Sherman's delay may console themselves with the reflection that he knows nearly as well as they what can be done and what cannot. So long as there are rains and inundations there will be delays, but with the return of decent weather the campaign will progress. Nor need we speculate anxiously whether the first point aimed at be Charleston, or Branchville, or Augusta; whether this plan or the other be uppermost in Sherman's mind. It is enough to know that his campaign is directed ultimately against no less a city than Richmond itself, and that without drawing nigher to it than a hundred or two hundred miles away he may, by the mere stress of his approach, compel its evacuation.

THE NEW WAR IN SOUTH AMERICA.

The civil war which for two years has been desolating the little republic of Uruguay has, during the last months of the year 1864, assumed much larger dimensions. The rebel chief, Gen. Flores, has succeeded in enlisting the sympathy of the Government of Brazil, which early in 1864 began to concentrate troops on the frontier of Uruguay. On August 4, Brazil presented to the Government of Uruguay an ultimatum, claiming redress of grievances, which no one outside of Brazil has ever been able to understand, and demanding a reply within six days. On October 11, the commander of the Brazilian fleet, in a circular dispatch addressed to diplomatic agents residing in Montevideo, announced his intention to search all the vessels of foreign powers to prevent the landing of contraband of war. This measure called forth a joint protest from the ministers of England, France, Italy, Spain and Portugal, as Brazil had not yet formally declared war against Uruguay, and, in particular, had not notified the foreign powers of the blockade of the ports of Uruguay.

The conduct of Brazil, which is utterly irreconcilable with the commonest principles of international law, produced in the adjacent states the universal belief that it was her intention to annex Uruguay. In such a scheme the State of Paraguay and the upper provinces of the Argentine Republic are deeply concerned, as the possession of the mouth of the Uruguay River would make their trade to a large extent dependent upon the Brazilian government.

The President of Paraguay, consequently, on August 30, issued an earnest protest against the threats uttered by Brazil against Uruguay, and clearly indicated his determination to oppose the annexation of Uruguay by force of arms. The last mail from Europe brings news that the President of Paraguay, in consideration that Brazil persisted in her policy and has marched troops into the territory of Uruguay, has declared war against Brazil. The excitement in the provinces Corrientes and Entre Rios, of the Argentine Republic, is so great that it is expected that they will support Paraguay, even if the Central Government of the Confederation should remain on intimate terms with Brazil.

Paraguay has, ever since the establishment of her independence, so isolated herself from the other States of South America that but little is known about her abroad. The State is, however, generally supposed to be in a prosperous condition, and is amply able to tax the entire strength of Brazil. Hitherto Paraguay has had no representation at the South American Congress, which is now in session at Lima; but the progress of war can hardly fail to establish closer connection between her and her sister republics of South America.

A partner of the house of H. B. Claffin & Co. assures us that the brief report of the case of Max Winternitz, in *THE TRIBUNE* of Wednesday, and the comments based thereon in yesterday's paper, are calculated to convey a false impression of the facts involved and of their method of doing business. Their transactions with Winternitz covered several months in time, and various purchases made and settled for at different periods. This man came to them with the most substantial and trustworthy recommendations, and it was only until after other careful and satisfactory inquiries that they admitted him to any confidence. The sum out of which he finally attempted to swindle them was not the result of a single transaction, but a balance of account outstanding in the usual course of trade. They exercised, in this case, the caution which they always use in regard to their customers, and were satisfied, till recently, that Winternitz's method of doing business and his general character entitled him to the credit which they gave him. Our remarks yesterday were aimed at a system which seems to us wrong, but, of course, were not intended as a personal reflection upon the eminently respectable house in question. The facility with which unknown men from a distance, and without capital, can procure credit among our merchants, is unquestionably mischievous, and ought to be amended; but Messrs. Claffin & Co., we believe, have earned a reputation which places them beyond any just suspicion of carelessness in this respect, and of that reputation they are, very properly, careful.

MUSIC.

ITALIAN OPERA—ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

Mr. Mareček commenced his new season at the Academy of Music last evening, with Donizetti's serious opera, "Don Sebastian." This opera exhibits a phase of Donizetti's art life, very different from that by which his name has been made so universally popular. In this there is but little of that exuberant sensuous music which has for so many years held possession of the public heart. In place of this he has aimed at a certain modified severity of style, foreign to his nature, and not particularly successful as a whole. It contains, however, numbers beautiful in melody, dramatic in form and masterly in construction and effect. These alone are sufficient to attract the refined and sensitive musician, who will pick out the gems from the mass of platitudes by which they are incumbered. To the many this opera will always be attractive outside its music; its scenery, its pageantry, its costumes and its general costliness of detail. As a spectacular opera we have had nothing like it since Mr. Mareček produced "La Prophete," years ago.

The cast is very strong, embracing all the principals of the company, with the exception of Mlle. Moreni. Mlle. Carozzi-Zucchi has a fine conception of the character of Zaida, and sustains it throughout the opera with a rare fidelity to nature; she never descends beyond its light, but throws the whole strength of her feeling into the development of its passionate characteristics. As an actress she often rises to the sublime, and we recognize in all she does the true, earnest and conscientious artist. She sang her role finely, especially in the latter part of the evening, when her voice was warmed up by emotion; in the first acts it was somewhat stiff and unmanageable, but it gradually attained its richness and fullness, and was fully equal to the splendid bursts of passion in which she excels. It is needless to say that her efforts were met with the warmest tokens of approbation, or that the usual honors were awarded her.

Massimiliano is not very happy in the part of Don Sebastian; it either does not suit him, or he does not suit it. He appears to better advantage in almost every other character that he has undertaken. Like Zucchi, he was cold and distant in the first acts, and warmed to something like a passion-glow afterward. His voice is of fine quality, and he uses it like a true artist.

Santal makes a bold and venturesome Grand

for; his rich and sonorous voice fills the entire building. His acting is dignified and impressive, and he sang his music with emphasis and force.

Cameos are one of Bellini's best parts. He subdues his somewhat too demonstrative style and sings like the excellent artist he is. We have rarely heard anything more delicious than his rendering of the beautiful aria, "O Lisbona, alfin te moro;" it is a fine specimen of passionate musical elocution. The secondary characters were well sustained. The *ensemble* pieces were executed with unusual care and with more than usual attention to artistic coloring. The chorus, which comprises many fine voices, especially among the basses, was prompt and efficient, and the orchestra was handled with masterly skill by Carl Bergmann. This branch of the opera is an improvement over all previous seasons, and we can now listen with pleasure to the orchestral developments of the scores.

The house was most fully and brilliantly attended, but it would have looked much better, but for some ugly gaps left by unoccupied seats of stockholders. When these unnecessary gentlemen cannot attend, they should allow the management to sell their seats for its benefit. It would be the only good thing they have ever done.

Fra Diavolo will be given this evening, with Aubert's newly added music.

NEWLY ADDED MUSIC.

SACRED CONCERT—CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY, BROOKLYN.

On Tuesday evening last a very fine concert was given at the Church of the Holy Trinity, Brooklyn, under the direction of the organist, Mr. G. W. Warren, in aid of the fund for the erection of the spire. The feeling was so strong in favor of the object that over two thousand tickets were sold over a week before the concert took place, and the audience assembled comprised most of the best families of Brooklyn.

The programme was a model of classical and elegant taste, comprising works by Handel, Mendelssohn, Righini, Haydn, Rossini, Mozart, Adam, and Beethoven, and we can say that in all respects it was admirably performed. The performers numbered nearly thirty singers, all of them members of the Holy Trinity choir. Mrs. Cammick has a fine soprano voice, and executed her two solos with rare grace and facility. Her intonation is excellent, her enunciation is clear and distinct, and her success was as marked as it was deserved. Mrs. Stetson has a very melodious, though not powerful, contralto voice, and sang her difficult aria, "He was despised," with much sentiment and expression. Mr. Cammick has a tenor voice of good compass, pure and rich in tone, and well under control. He sings expressively, and he has one good physical qualification which is that he makes his hearers feel that he will not fail in whatever he attempts. The baritone, Mr. Huntington, has a full, mellifluous voice; his style is excellent, his intonation as distinct as that of a good elocutionist, and he has besides both feeling and passion. His aria, "O God have mercy," from Mendelssohn's St. Paul, was one of the most notable gems of the performance, and extracted a murmur of delight from the audience.

The choruses were performed with much precision. Three pieces were especially noteworthy both for their excellent performance and their individual merit, namely: the "Cantique de Noel," by Adolph Adam; the Hymn, "Save, Lord, or we Perish," by G. W. Warren; and the "Three Kings of Orient," by the Rev. J. H. Hopkins, Jr.

In the selections for his programme Mr. Warren displayed most excellent taste, not only in the fine subjects which he chose, but in regard to the contrasting the one with the other in an artistic point of view. His accompaniments, too, were marked by grace, judgment and skill. We have rarely been present at a more successful concert, and we must compliment Mr. Warren upon the singular and marked excellence of his choir.

During the second part of the concert the pastor came forward and announced that during the evening he had had so many requests for a repetition of the concert that he had conferred with Mr. Warren, who had the whole matter in charge, and that he was enabled to announce that a public rehearsal would be given at the church on Tuesday morning, Feb. 7, at 12 o'clock noon, for the convenience of New-York friends and that the repetition of the concert would take place on the evening of the same day, Tuesday, Feb. 7, at 8 o'clock.

MR. J. N. PATTISON'S SOIRÉE MUSICALE.

The first of Mr. J. N. Pattison's series *Soiree Musicale*, took place at Steinway & Sons' piano rooms, in Fourteenth-st. The programme was very choice and very brief, and the assisting artists were very excellent, while the audience was one of the best that has been drawn together this season. The assisting artists were Miss Laura Harris, Miss Camilla Uro, and Mr. G. W. Morgan. We have discussed the merits of Miss Harris in full during the past week. We recognize at once her points of excellence and her defects. On this occasion circumstances were greatly in her favor. The room was of a size just suited to the display of her voice. She evidently felt her power, and sang better and with more marked effect than upon any previous occasion. In concert halls of moderate size, Miss Harris will always prove a most attractive artist. Camilla Uro was upon our admiration the oftener we hear her. There is nothing meretricious in her style. Her execution is marked, while judgment and taste, while thought, passion, and tenderness, have due control, and she carries the feelings of the audience with her. She has a magnetic power, and there are few public performers to-day who can so thoroughly control and charm a mass of people.

Mr. J. N. Pattison, surrounded by his friends and admirers, seemed more than usually at home, and played more spiritedly and effectively than he has ever before done in public within our knowledge. His "Tausend und Fautaste," the merits of which as a composition we have before acknowledged, was played in his best manner, brilliancy, delicacy and power combined. "La Campanella," by Liszt, was